

MALDEN WEEKLY

PUBLISHED WEEKLY, FOR THE BENEFIT OF FARMERS AND MECHANICS, AT QUINCY HALL, SOUTH MARKET STREET—WM. BUCKMINSTER, OF FRAMINGHAM EDITOR.

Vol. 8.

BOSTON, SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 30, 1848.

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AGRICULTURE.

FARM WORK FOR JANUARY.

A new year commences on Monday next—a happy new year we trust, to all our friends. At the commencement of a new year, new and better resolutions should be adopted. None are perfect, and there is room for perpetual progress. Let every one look back and correct, as far as his power, the errors of the past, and pray for assistance in every new effort to become more pure, more wise, more just.

This is the time to make settlements, and adjust accounts with neighbors and with all people who have dealt with us. Farmers cannot have their pay; professional men cannot live on faith alone; and no class of people can honestly rest with unsettled accounts standing in attested form against them.

Settle up and strike the balance annually—while you retain a recollection of services rendered, and of obligations unadjusted—while you have leisure to examine books of account—and when all methodical and correct people expect a settlement.

It is better policy, and it is more fair, in retailers of goods and in professional men, to present their bills seasonably, than to let accounts run till their amount amazes an interested beholder. The credit system is much abused by too many of us. Long credits are ruinous on every hand—the day laborer must be soon paid or he must suffer. All creditors are injured by long delays, and debtors are corrupted by too great indulgence. Let all consider how much time is lost by hunting for every dollar. From ten to twenty per cent is often thrown away in attempts to collect of debtors who are able to pay.

Some one in each village or town should set the ball in motion. One dollar properly moved would pay through twenty hands and pay twenty debts in a single day. Let the man of capital begin and pay off promptly his laborers, then his laborers will have the means of doing the same. The rich should not wait for the poor to commence this business. It is dishonest in men of property to delay paying laborers who are in need of all they earn as soon as the work is done. Pay them promptly, and enable them to pay others.

Much may be done in January besides settling accounts. Wood may be hauled and cut up; clothing may be finished, and farm stock must be fed. Next cattle should be fed little and often, and their beds should be dry. Fattening hogs want a variety of food, and a little brimstone in addition. They love charcoal too, but never eat tobacco, or take snuff, when they can have anything else.

We have a prospect of snow enough for good sledding. This enables us to go to distant woodlots and bring home the sturdy oaks and walnuts. The oaks are then hidden, and the uneven paths are out of sight. Haul for a pair of two or three miles from home, with the oxen and two or three for the extremes of the team, and two or three pairs of sleds to fill up between them. With a good team and good sledding, wood enough may be hauled in one week to supply a family through the year.

When the weather is not very cold, gravel may be carried in sleds upon soft meadows. It often happens that snow falls before the ground is much frozen, and when it is covered well it remains unfrozen till the snow is gone. Then you find an excellent opportunity to dig gravel from knolls and cover an adjacent bog meadow.

If the meadow is an old one, and your object is to bury all the wild grasses, drop your gravel in heaps, as much as a wheelbarrow in a place, and let it lie in heaps till August next. Then spread it in such a manner that the whole surface may be covered and the wild grass killed. But little will be needed to be found where the heaps lie, for the gravel will be found rotten and the grasses converted to manure.

If your meadow has been sabbled, and your good grass intended, you can spread your gravel directly from the sled, and let it mingle with the snow. Stud is often used where gravel is not handy, but stud is not worth half so much as fine gravel, either to subside a new meadow, or to find an old one. When the natural soil of the meadow is light, dry, and pulpy, as we sometimes find it, gravel is the best article to be carried on.

Good judgment, purchased by long experience, under various trials, is important to every one who would manage in the best mode. It is found by men who have made many experiments, and watched closely, that twenty-five per cent of our very best soil consists of clay—the remainder is sand and the vegetable matter that has been formed on the soil or driven on to it from elsewhere.

Much of our Massachusetts soil is deficient in clay; some of it containing less than ten per cent. This is too porous to retain either manure or moisture, and nothing improves the texture of such lands so much as clay. Sand and clay are the main bases of all soils, and when we mix these two in due proportion we have nothing wanting but the vegetable matter to produce good harvests. Manure applied to soils of such proportions, produces the greatest effects, and operate for the longest term.

CORRESPONDENCE.

PEAT MUD AND LEACHED ASHES MIXED.

MR. EDITOR.—Please pardon me for imposing upon you, a few questions in relation to composting manure.

My farm is in Charlton Centre, Worcester County. The soil is deep and strong, much like that of Worcester, and Sutton.

And I am now commencing an operation like the following, viz: I have purchased two thousand bushels of leached ashes, of a soap manufacturer in this place, which cost me, delivered at my farm, six cents per bushel. I can deliver any quantity of meadow muck, at six per cent, by drawing it from the Western Railroad, three miles from my place, which was dug at the time the road was graded, and has been exposed to atmospheric air ever since; and I can also obtain any quantity within one half mile from my farm, which is

naturally as good muck; but I must take it in its natural state, and I have decided to use the Railroad muck. (Is this right?) although at much greater expense.

My plan is to put every cord of muck 30 bushels of leached ashes, and to every such quantity of ashes and muck 100 gallons of alkaline liquor and sediment, which I obtain from the soap man at 25 cents the 100 gals. and cart to C. 6 miles. Also, I design to use a large quantity of oyster shells after they have been burned, to mix, in the spring when I have the compost worked over.

Will you be kind enough to say to me what you think of the above plan; and make any suggestions that you may think useful. And also what crops it will be the best adapted for. And you will much oblige.

Yours, &c. CHAS. G. W. FAY.
Southbridge, Dec. 16th, 1848.

Our correspondent will find his leached ashes a most excellent article to mix in with his peat mud. Nothing is better to bring such matter into a state fit to be taken up by the roots of plants. Ashes, leached and unleached, operate quite differently from lime. For it is the nature of ashes and the lime that comes from them to promote the decomposition of vegetable matter; but lime retards decomposition.

Peat mud that has been dug and suffered to lie in a heap for a year or two is always to be preferred to that which is recently cut out; and though it may be somewhat difficult to active manure when we have large supplies of ashes, it is more economical to let the mud lie for one year before using.

Manures made from peat mud and ashes, or the like of ashes, work well on all tillage lands, but they are better adapted to soils that are dry than to soils that are naturally an abundance of moisture. The soil in the city of Worcester is naturally strong and good, and does not generally suffer much from lack of moisture. Barn yard and stable manure therefore always tell well on such a soil, and the benefits of the manures are long felt. Had we a farm in the city of Worcester we should apply manures made of peat and ashes to the dry parts, and the yard and stable manures to the moistest and most wet.

Ashes and peat each, both mixed, and in retaining moisture on all wet soils; it is therefore obvious that they should be used on such parts of a farm as lack moisture. We are aware that many farmers suppose dry soil to be dry like the manure, and carrying out this idea they have been accustomed to put ashes on their wet grounds, in preference to sandy and gravelly places. It is the power of the poorest farmer to satisfy himself by actual observation that ashes on wet lands soon introduce the moists and permanently injure such soils.

All "alkaline liquors" from ashes or potash are good for mixing with peat mud, and though we are not told how strong the liquor is that is purchased by our friend we think he cannot be greatly cheated in the bargain.

"Oyster shells" have not been used much as manure in Massachusetts. Shell lime is known to be valuable in New Jersey and other places. The animal matter contained in them must be as useful, and we should value the shells as highly without burning—though when certain acids are found in soils lime of all kinds is good.

In regard to the kinds of crops that would be best served by manure made of mud and ashes we think wheat and the other English grains would be as much benefited as any. Such soils are prevalent in the city of Worcester are well adapted to wheat, rye and oats. But wheat in Massachusetts does not generally give so much profit as other crops. More than twice as much profit can be obtained in Worcester from grass and hay as from English grain. Indian corn is better for us than wheat, and corn and grass will flourish well with enough of such manure as our correspondent proposes to obtain. [Editor.]

IS LABOR A SIN?
MR. EDITOR.—Although man was doomed at the time of his fall to live by the sweat of his brow, yet labor is, in some measure, a sin. No; it is contrary to the nature of man to be idle, and he is bound to labor for his neighbor and against the state. He forgets the great purpose of his creation. He becomes a mere brute, a working machine. Labor of itself is honorable, for it is necessary to existence; but it is only when it is used for the glory of God, and the good of his neighbor, that it is a sin. It is only when it is used for the glory of God, and the good of his neighbor, that it is a sin. It is only when it is used for the glory of God, and the good of his neighbor, that it is a sin.

MR. EDITOR.—The season of the year has once more arrived when the various stocks of cattle in this part of New England must be put to dry fodder in our barns, and I wish if you thought it worth a place in your valuable paper, to communicate a few remarks on the subject. I find views of my own on sending out tips, or giving cattle and feed to lie on—has been to be before the columns of the Plover.

It is a matter of great importance to every farmer, in this part of the world, to make use of all the means he possibly can for making manure, and the best means too. As I have before publicly stated, there is but very few farms with any knowledge that have no place on any part of it that sand or lime cannot be procured at any time in winter; and where it is of immense value.

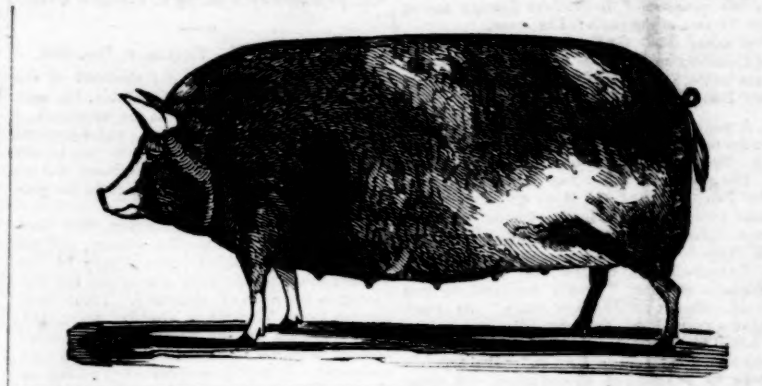
Just let me state, sir, that my practice has been for the last ten years, in the Fall of each year, to fill up my leanto well with sand; which leanto, or tip, has no floor, save that of the ground, and which is all I approve of for cattle feed, and to lie on in winter; and this sand soaks up all the juices of the manure, and goes out of the barn daily in small parcels, which is all well mixed by the cattle. This process of filling up is repeated from twice to five times, as occasion may require, during the Winter and Spring; and when my cattle leave the barn in Spring, I find myself in possession of nearly double the value of manure that I should otherwise have had without the use of sand or lime.

Let me just say to farmers having doors for their cattle to lie on, they will find their account in keeping a proper quantity of sand upon them during the time their cattle lie in the barn, for three particular reasons, viz., your cattle lie much easier than on a floor; you may have a much larger quantity of manure, and that of a much better quality than without the sand.

If you think this story is all humbug, try it and see, as the expense of it will be small, much less than to go and buy that quantity of manure the sand would make it properly managed.

Sudbury, Dec. 7, 1848.

We never let our own horned cattle lie on floors for they never lie so easy as on sand or loam covered with straw or some kind of litter.



small portion of your time to improve your mind. Be assured that you will not lose a farthing but rather add to your previous gains. Let not a day pass but that you add a new idea to your previous ones and soon you will be one of the wise men of the land.

A WELL WISHER TO FARMERS.
When a boy we used to think it rather tough to work so many hours as we were obliged to work; but we did not imagine it a sin. We were always taught that sin lay at the other door—that idleness rather than activity was sinful.

Yet we admit that many seem to work too hard. We should rather see all laborers devoting a part of their time to the improvement of their minds, but it is difficult to persuade them. It is hard to follow a medium course. Any man may take a middle road. One may walk straight in a dark room if he will go on one extreme—that is by the ceiling—but he will not find it easy to keep a straight track through the middle of it.

It requires a well balanced mind to avoid extremes. But how few do we find of that class! Some laborers would devote their leisure hours to study, but a majority of them would be inclined to indulge in dissipation if they were not permitted to work more than ten hours in a day. It may be prudent to compel people to be idle. [Editor.]

For the Plover.]
GOLDEN ROBIN.—FIRE-IRIS-BIRD.
MR. EDITOR.—The last Spring, a bird, by some called the Golden Robin, built a nest on an Elm near our house, and had nesting children not far from the house, would come near the door in search of food to rear her tender offspring. I took much pleasure with these birds, and really missed them when they took their departure for a warmer clime.

The nest, being built on a dry limb, blown down last Fall into the garden. On examining it, I was quite astonished at the labor and skill in its construction.

Rather than attempt to describe this master piece of the feathered tribe, I will send it to you, knowing that you will take more pleasure in viewing the skill and judgment in this ingenious piece of work, than in being wearied with my description. Yours, &c.

West Cambridge, Dec. 1848.

The nest was a curiosity. It is the nest of a bird known by various names. Some call it a Fire-bird—some a Golden Robin, and we have heard it called Red-Robin.

These birds build their nests on very high trees and near the tops of them. And if they should build as birds do to go more into the body of the tree they must often be blown down.

But instinct teaches them to build quite differently from any known birds, and their nests are made secure though supported only by the small branches at the extremities of the limb they build on.

We find numerous cotton threads intertwined in a most skillful manner to tie the main beams of the nest to the small but growing twigs of the tree. We can plainly see that the strongest of the cotton threads are tied where the most strength is needed, while the smallest threads are interwoven, at the bottom of the nest to keep the frame together merely so as not to fret in to the tree.

Which it hangs in the air below the limb to which it is tied, and the wind whips it back and forth enough to throw out all the eggs, or the young from a crow's nest. But this nest, in the form of a miser's money purse, holds all safe in its bottom, and is not so much jured as it would be if it were in the body of the tree. It hangs as free as a lance in place of the tree, and is not so much jured as it would be if it were in the body of the tree.

Instant has taught this bird that she must not build as other birds do, from well built so high. The Fire-bird is one of the few birds that are not to open a caterpillar's nest and pick out the tenants for food. On this account she deserves the protection of farmers, and her business should be encouraged. [Editor.]

LOAM AND SAND UNDER CATTLE.
MR. EDITOR.—The season of the year has once more arrived when the various stocks of cattle in this part of New England must be put to dry fodder in our barns, and I wish if you thought it worth a place in your valuable paper, to communicate a few remarks on the subject. I find views of my own on sending out tips, or giving cattle and feed to lie on—has been to be before the columns of the Plover.

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Sudbury, Dec. 7, 1848.

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Cattle that lie on floors are more apt to have lice on them, and cattle that lie on the ground. The only advantage of having a plank floor consists in the facility it offers of cleaning away the manure behind them. But one or two planks placed at a proper distance from the stanchions will answer the purpose well. These planks should not lie on sleepers, but should be bedded in the loam and sunk lower than the ground on which the beasts stand. A broad trough with a wide bottom plank will catch nearly all the droppings and convey off to one end of the lot and thence out into the yard.

Farmers who tie their cattle above the collar and let the manure fall through are obliged to have plank floors to support them. But these floors may be covered with loam or sand in addition to straw or litter. [Editor.]

For the Plover.]
MANURES.
I proceed to the subject of manures, as it presents itself in Continental husbandry. The English system is the best of agriculture. Of its importance no word need be said, and the Flemish, in the pains they take in its application and use, evince the estimation in which they hold it. Manure is indeed the foundation of all good husbandry.

MANURES. Manures divide themselves generally into three kinds, mineral, vegetable, and animal. Of mineral manures, such as lime, gypsum, and marl, we see much used; but, within my observation, they are not applied to so great a proportion of land as in England and Scotland. Lime, or the carbonate of lime, is employed upon lands which are clayey, cold, and heavy; and in such case it answers a double purpose, to divide the soil and render it light and friable, and secondly, to warm the soil. That plants take up some portion of lime from the soil is established; but this is so small an element in their composition, that few soils are found deficient in the necessary quantity. That it should be applied to the land in a caustic or warm state seems likewise an established point. Some of the Flemish farmers advise to the mixture of lime with earth, and to its application in that form, but this seems only an increase of labor without any obvious advantage. Others advise to the mixture of lime with heaps of vegetable matter, so as to reduce its heat, but in such case, it is like to destroy some of the most valuable parts of the manure, and the efficacy of a dressing of lime is considered by the Flemings to endure three years; but this must obviously depend upon the quantity applied. Thirty bushels of unleached lime after being mixed with some farmyard manure, and applied in application; while others advise the application of thirty bushels each year for three years in succession.

I have met with the frequent application of manure to lands and to the stables of pastures, and that soon forms a productive soil. The application of gypsum can scarcely be said to be general. It is sometimes applied in the case of sheep, and more frequently in the case of cattle, in which case it is generally admitted to improve the quality of the pasture; and it is applied also by being sown broadcast upon young clover; in this latter case, ordinarily with success. The efficacy of its operation is still obscure. It is difficult to say why it succeeds; but it is not less difficult to say why it fails. It will sometimes be useful, and at other times without effect, in some localities. This I have myself observed. A very competent farmer in the United States gives it as his opinion, and the result of his experience, that it sometimes fails of its effects from being too coarsely ground, but that it always succeeds when reduced to an unpalatable powder.

Much has been said of the value and efficacy of sea salt as a manure, and in France great quantities have been used, and with success. It has in fact prevented its use in this way. A distinguished French farmer and experimenter, who has devoted much time and expense to this subject, and has furnished most exact accounts of the experiments he has made, and has fully to the conclusion that it is of no use whatever as a manure, and equally useless in the fattening of animals. These conclusions are different from the popular notions, which seem always to be of little value, and which are borne out by the experiments, repeated and varied, of this indefatigable inquirer.

VEGETABLE MANURES. Of vegetable manures I have only to say, that buckwheat and clover are the best, and the most useful, and well known advantages. The Flemish make a good use of collecting every species of vegetable refuse which they can find, all vegetable matter growing upon the sides of the roads and that which is found in the canals. They are most careful to collect every species of vegetable refuse which they can find, all vegetable matter growing upon the sides of the roads and that which is found in the canals. They are most careful to collect every species of vegetable refuse which they can find, all vegetable matter growing upon the sides of the roads and that which is found in the canals.

Under this head may likewise be included all refuse of the Flemish make great use of. A large part of the fuel consumed in Holland is peat or turf, and the Dutch ashes are highly valued as dressing for clover. These ashes are imported from Holland into Flanders in large quantities in boats, and always find purchasers. They are applied as a top dressing to dry meadows, as well as to clover and likewise to flax. It is not difficult to determine what their particular effects are.

The ashes of sea-salt or mineral coal are likewise used as a manure, but they are deemed very inferior to the Dutch ashes properly so called. Hence the Dutch farmers highly prize them, and the health brought for the sake of the ashes; but if it is intended to cultivate the land or to plant it for trees, it is deemed hurtful to remove the ashes of the surface. Wood ashes and the ashes of the soap boilers are likewise most carefully saved and applied. Wood ashes are not easily obtained, because of their extensive use in the arts. The ashes from the soap boilers are much esteemed by the Flemish for dressing their lands, and have a great quantity of lime, which contains a large quantity of soap, is more valued for dry ground than the Dutch ashes, and is more valued for dry ground than the Dutch ashes, and is more valued for dry ground than the Dutch ashes.

Light lands, both of these manures are greatly esteemed for clover and for dry ground. Their effects are understood to last for three years, and they are more efficacious the second than the first year.

The ashes of the soda or rape, which remain after the oil has been expressed, are very much used for manure; in which case they are thrown into the urine cistern, and applied thus directly to the land. They are also used for dressing the land, and are applied thus directly to the land. They are also used for dressing the land, and are applied thus directly to the land.

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on its statements. They will send their sons to acquire what may be a solid and reliable basis of eminence.

Mass. A. I. may be a model Farm for the State, and more, it may have a Post-office, Printing Press, and its correspondents in every clime and country; while study and labor combined, secures the best health to it, may be 100 years young, with a worthy interest in each other's highest improvement, enjoyment, and future success. With the best instruction and example, they may well acquire an eminence in Husbandry, which will bring delight, profit, and honor, to themselves, to the institution, and the age.

As to the House and Seminary buildings, a course of study, apparatus, lectures, library, reading room, &c., I must waive remarks at present; but I will say I have a Cabinet of Minerals which I should be happy to place in such an institution for the use of a Geological class.

Perhaps I have said too much, or it may be deemed visionary by the Agricultural Committee. If you think it not desirable for them, you may pass it to my friend the "Ploverman." It may not be lost to his readers.

Very truly, &c. BENJAMIN WILLARD.
Wilbraham, March 11th, 1848.

MANURES.
I proceed to the subject of manures, as it presents itself in Continental husbandry. The English system is the best of agriculture. Of its importance no word need be said, and the Flemish, in the pains they take in its application and use, evince the estimation in which they hold it. Manure is indeed the foundation of all good husbandry.

MANURES. Manures divide themselves generally into three kinds, mineral, vegetable, and animal. Of mineral manures, such as lime, gypsum, and marl, we see much used; but, within my observation, they are not applied to so great a proportion of land as in England and Scotland. Lime, or the carbonate of lime, is employed upon lands which are clayey, cold, and heavy; and in such case it answers a double purpose, to divide the soil and render it light and friable, and secondly, to warm the soil. That plants take up some portion of lime from the soil is established; but this is so small an element in their composition, that few soils are found deficient in the necessary quantity. That it should be applied to the land in a caustic or warm state seems likewise an established point. Some of the Flemish farmers advise to the mixture of lime with earth, and to its application in that form, but this seems only an increase of labor without any obvious advantage. Others advise to the mixture of lime with heaps of vegetable matter, so as to reduce its heat, but in such case, it is like to destroy some of the most valuable parts of the manure, and the efficacy of a dressing of lime is considered by the Flemings to endure three years; but this must obviously depend upon the quantity applied. Thirty bushels of unleached lime after being mixed with some farmyard manure, and applied in application; while others advise the application of thirty bushels each year for three years in succession.

I have met with the frequent application of manure to lands and to the stables of pastures, and that soon forms a productive soil. The application of gypsum can scarcely be said to be general. It is sometimes applied in the case of sheep, and more frequently in the case of cattle, in which case it is generally admitted to improve the quality of the pasture; and it is applied also by being sown broadcast upon young clover; in this latter case, ordinarily with success. The efficacy of its operation is still obscure. It is difficult to say why it succeeds; but it is not less difficult to say why it fails. It will sometimes be useful, and at other times without effect, in some localities. This I have myself observed. A very competent farmer in the United States gives it as his opinion, and the result of his experience, that it sometimes fails of its effects from being too coarsely ground, but that it always succeeds when reduced to an unpalatable powder.

Much has been said of the value and efficacy of sea salt as a manure, and in France great quantities have been used, and with success. It has in fact prevented its use in this way. A distinguished French farmer and experimenter, who has devoted much time and expense to this subject, and has furnished most exact accounts of the experiments he has made, and has fully to the conclusion that it is of no use whatever as a manure, and equally useless in the fattening of animals. These conclusions are different from the popular notions, which seem always to be of little value, and which are borne out by the experiments, repeated and varied, of this indefatigable inquirer.

VEGETABLE MANURES. Of vegetable manures I have only to say, that buckwheat and clover are the best, and the most useful, and well known advantages. The Flemish make a good use of collecting every species of vegetable refuse which they can find, all vegetable matter growing upon the sides of the roads and that which is found in the canals. They are most careful to collect every species of vegetable refuse which they can find, all vegetable matter growing upon the sides of the roads and that which is found in the canals. They are most careful to collect every species of vegetable refuse which they can find, all vegetable matter growing upon the sides of the roads and that which is found in the canals.

Under this head may likewise be included all refuse of the Flemish make great use of. A large part of the fuel consumed in Holland is peat or turf, and the Dutch ashes are highly valued as dressing for clover. These ashes are imported from Holland into Flanders in large quantities in boats, and always find purchasers. They are applied as a top dressing to dry meadows, as well as to clover and likewise to flax. It is not difficult to determine what their particular effects are.

The ashes of sea-salt or mineral coal are likewise used as a manure, but they are deemed very inferior to the Dutch ashes properly so called. Hence the Dutch farmers highly prize them, and the health brought for the sake of the ashes; but if it is intended to cultivate the land or to plant it for trees, it is deemed hurtful to remove the ashes of the surface. Wood ashes and the ashes of the soap boilers are likewise most carefully saved and applied. Wood ashes are not easily obtained, because of their extensive use in the arts. The ashes from the soap boilers are much esteemed by the Flemish for dressing their lands, and have a great quantity of lime, which contains a large quantity of soap, is more valued for dry ground than the Dutch ashes, and is more valued for dry ground than the Dutch ashes.

Light lands, both of these manures are greatly esteemed for clover and for dry ground. Their effects are understood to last for three years, and they are more efficacious the second than the first year.

The ashes of the soda or rape, which remain after the oil has been expressed, are very much used for manure; in which case they are thrown into the urine cistern, and applied thus directly to the land. They are also used for dressing the land, and are applied thus directly to the land. They are also used for dressing the land, and are applied thus directly to the land.

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